



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 14, 2007

J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner, (860) 509-7101

House Bill 7089 - An Act Concerning Supervising Physicians for Physician Assistants

The Department of Public Health supports House Bill 7089.

House Bill 7089 is a Governor's initiative that would eliminate the requirement for a physician to register with the Department prior to establishing a supervisory relationship with a physician assistant. It also clarifies that licensed physician assistants who are part of the Connecticut Disaster Medical Assistance Team, the Medical Reserve Corps or the Connecticut Search and Rescue Team shall provide services under the supervision, control, responsibility and direction of a licensed physician.

The general statutes currently require physicians who supervise physician assistants to file a one-time registration application and fee with the Department prior to taking on supervisory responsibility. The fee associated with such application is \$37.50. Physicians and/or their employers will no longer need to submit applications prior to accepting or assigning supervisory authority, which will eliminate an administrative burden. The Department respectfully requests the Committee to consider deleting subsection (d) of section 3 of this bill. Physician assistants cannot practice unless they have a designated supervising physician. Enactment of this proposal would not change the supervisory relationship between a physician assistant and a supervising physician and would provide the same level of public protection as the current process. When conducting an investigation, the Department will continue to review protocols that define the supervisory relationship to ensure that statutory requirements are being met.

Enactment of this proposal results in an annual loss of approximately \$6,000.00 to the general fund and is included within the Governor's proposed budget.

Thank you for hearing and considering the Department's views on this bill. We urge you to vote favorably on this important initiative.

Phone:



Telephone Device for the Deaf: (860) 509-7191

410 Capitol Avenue - MS # _____

P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134

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